

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03385 201415Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 FBIE-00
USSS-00 MCT-01 AID-05 /086 W
----- 067407 /43

O R 201250Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4657
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3385

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, RH
SUBJECT: NKOMO ALLEGES HE OBJECT OF ASSASSINATION PLOT

REF: LUSAKA 3382

1. DECEMBER 20 ZAMBIAN DAILY MAIL FRONT-PAGED A SALISBURY REPORT THAT JOSHUA NKOMO TOLD A DECEMBER 19 PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAD BEEN WARNED HE WAS THE OBJECT OF AN ASSASSINATION PLOT. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, NKOMO SAID "I WAS TOLD (IN GENEVA) THAT A GROUP OF WHITE PEOPLE IN RHODESIA WERE ORGANIZING TO KILL ME, BECAUSE IT IS SAID I HAVE SAID I AM THE LEADER OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. LET ME TELL YOU THIS: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY ARE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS TO FREE THE COUNTRY."

2. REPORTEDLY NKOMO ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT HE
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SHOULD NOT RETURN TO RHODESIA BUT NONETHELESS HE DECIDED TO GO HOME. ON HIS ARRIVAL IN SALISBURY SATURDAY, NKOMO HAD BEEN TOLD HE SHOULD NOT MAKE POLITICAL STATEMENTS, OR HOLD POLITICAL MEETINGS. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS AS INTIMIDATION HES PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN FRON OF AN ESTIMATED 5,000 FOLLOWERS, BUT WAS NOT INTERFERED WITH BY POLICE.

3. REPORTEDLY, NKOMO ALSO REJECTED THE SUGGESTION HE HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH SMITH DURING THE GENEVA RECESS, OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUZOREWA. NKOMO DESCRIBED SMITH AS HIS PRINCIPLE OPPONENT AND CHARACTERIZED MUZOREWA AS "A BABY" IN POLITICS WHO "IS NOT AN IMPERIALIST, HE IS A ZIMBABWEAN - A MISGUIDED ONE PERHAPS."
LOW

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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